Volumnia Cytheris

Volumnia Cytheris (fl. 1st-century BC) was an Ancient Roman actress and mimae dancer. She is foremost known as the mistress of several famous Romans.

She was originally a slave and later freedwoman. Onstage, she was normally referred to only as Cytheris. She had relationships with Brutus and Mark Antony, which attracted a lot of attention in contemporary Ancient Rome. She is mentioned as the companion of her aristocratic lovers in social occasions when the presence of a courtesan was otherwise not common, and considered shocking.

Her rejection of Cornelius Gallus reportedly provided the theme for Virgil's tenth Eclogue.[1] Gallus refers to her in his work under the name *Lycoris*.

She is one of few free influential Roman courtesans mentioned by her contemporaries, others being Praecia and Chelidon.[2]

See also

- Tertia (actress)

References

1. Sarah B. Pomeroy, *Goddesses, Whores, Wives, and Slaves*, pp 198–9 ISBN 0-8052-1030-X
2. Anise K. Strong: *Prostitutes and Matrons in the Roman World (https://books.google.se/books?id=ClSJDAAAQBAJ&pg=PA47&lpg=PA47&dq=Hispala+Faecenia&source=bl&ots=s1z6EfUJy5&sig=ACfU3U2EzwHP6MvJQAjygcYpODQB8YwWKA&hl=sv&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjTrY_gzaLnAhXPvosKHb0yDW0Q6AEwD3oECAcQAQ#v=onepage&q=Hispala%20Faecenia&f=false)*

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- Edith Hall, Rosie Wyles, *New Directions in Ancient Pantomime (https://books.google.se/books?id=9N0GmN1wiLsC&pg=PA186&dq=Eucharis+actress+ancient+rome+mimae&hl=sv&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjtx6vnq6blAhVH0aYKHWprAJoQ6AEIOzAC#v=onepage&q=Eucharis%20actress%20ancient%20rome%20mimae&f=false)*

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